

nothing from shore except whitebait piping hot. Ossulston was our minstrel, and a most musical one; and we all arrived in town in time for the ballet. I never knew a more agreeable day, and never drank so much champagne in my life. I woke, quite well, and after a very dull dinner party at the Wyndham Lewis's, went to Lady Salisbury's. So you see I am on my legs again. I am sorry for dear Jem, but he has many fellow-sufferers. The influenza, however, is not so severe as last year.

My love to all.

Your own *D.*

Ossulston asked me to allow him to put me up for Crockford's. I told him that I was sure I should be blackballed; but he was sanguine of the reverse, and is to consult his friends.

Disraeli was not elected to Crockford's, the famous gaming house in St. James's Street, till 1840, shortly before the retirement of the founder and the consequent dissolution of the club. Another social institution of the day was Almack's, a periodical subscription ball held at Willis's Rooms and presided over by an oligarchy of fashionable ladies, who wielded their powers with a jealous and vigilant exclusiveness.

To Sarah Disraeli.

July 11, 1834=.

I made my *début* at Almack's with a subscription from Lady Tankerville,¹ but it was not a very brilliant *reunion*. Yesterday I met Lord Lyndhurst, whom I like very much. The next time he goes the Norfolk circuit he is to sleep at Bradenham. He says the Duke of Wellington never reads any book but the *Commentaries*,² and assured me it was a positive fact!

July 23.

I still adhere to my plan of being down with you in a week or ten days, and tell Tita to get my pipes in order, as I look forward to a batch of smoking with great zest.

I go every day to fêtes and water parties. Lady Tavistock's at Richmond on Saturday. Monday, another

¹ Daughter of Antoine Due de Gramont and sister of the Due de Gramont who married Count Alfred D'Orsay's sister.

² Isaac D. Disraeli's *Commentaries on the Life and Reign of Charles the First.*

